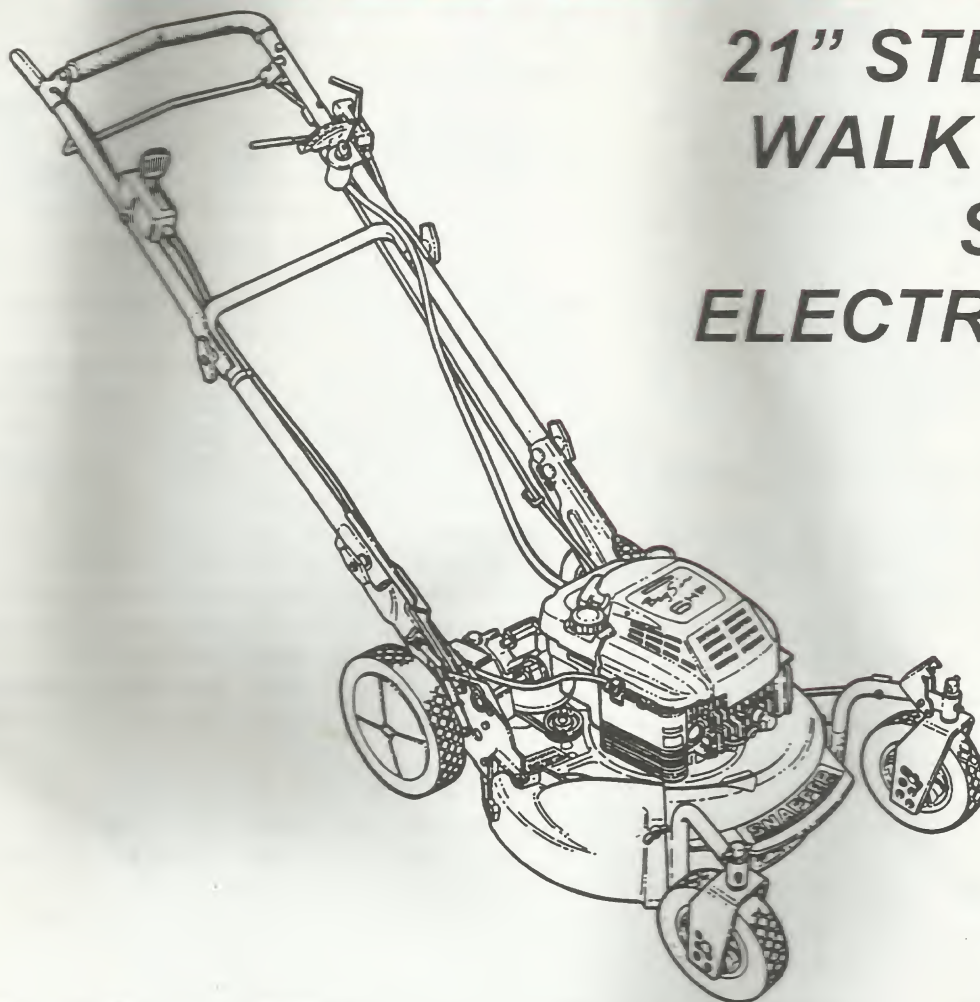


# Safety Instructions & Operator's Manual for

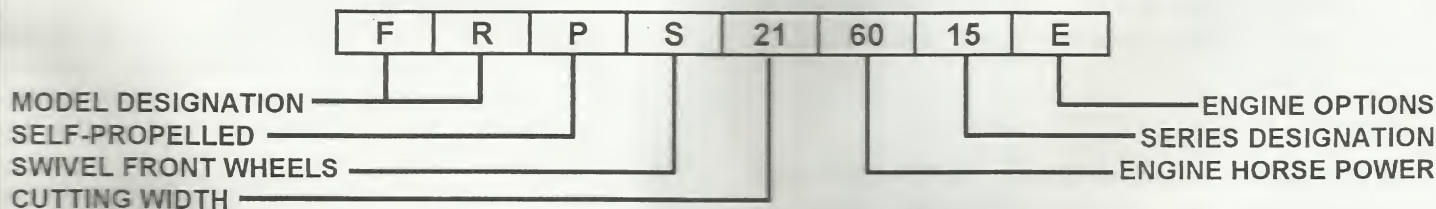
# SNAPPER®

## 21" STEEL DECK WALK MOWERS SERIES 15 ELECTRIC START



| MODELS           |
|------------------|
| PROPELLED MODELS |
| FRPS216015E      |

### MODEL NUMBER EXPLANATION



|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| F - Flange Type Deck     | R - Recycling Model          |
| P - Self Propelled Model | S - Swivel Front Wheel Model |
| 21 - 21" Cutting Width   |                              |

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| 60 - 6.0 HP (Engine Horse Power) |
| 14 - Series Designation          |
| E - Electric Start Model         |

Thank you for buying a SNAPPER Product! Before operating your Walk Behind, read this manual carefully and pay particular attention to the "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on Pages 2 & 2A. Remember that all power equipment can be dangerous if used improperly. Also keep in mind that SAFETY requires careful use in accordance with the operating instructions and common sense.



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING:** This powerful cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and can throw objects that can cause injury and damage! Failure to comply with the following SAFETY instructions could result in serious injury or death to the operator or other persons. The owner of the machine must understand these instructions and must allow only persons who understand these instructions to operate machine. Each person operating the machine must be of sound mind and body and must not be under the influence of any substance which might impair vision, dexterity or judgment. If you have any questions pertaining to your machine which your dealer cannot answer to your satisfaction, call or write the Customer Service Department at SNAPPER, McDonough, Georgia 30253. Phone: (1-800-935-2967).

## PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

1. KEEP children out of the mowing area and under the watchful care of a responsible adult.
2. DO NOT allow others in yard when machine is operated and turn machine OFF if anyone enters the area.
3. DO NOT allow pre-teenage children to operate machine.
4. ALLOW only responsible adults & teenagers with mature judgment under close adult supervision to operate machine.
5. DO NOT pull mower backwards unless absolutely necessary. LOOK BEHIND and down for small children before and when backing.
6. USE EXTRA CARE when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.

## SLOPE OPERATION

1. Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. All slopes require extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it.
2. Mow across slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise extreme CAUTION when changing directions on slopes. DO NOT mow steep slopes or other areas where stability or traction is in doubt.

## PREPARATION

1. Read, understand, and follow instructions and warnings in this manual and on the mower and with attachments. Know the controls and the proper use of the mower before starting.
2. Only mature, responsible persons shall operate the machine and only after proper instruction.
3. Handle fuel with extra care. Fuels are flammable and vapors are explosive. Use only an approved fuel container. Never remove fuel cap or add fuel with engine running. Add fuel outdoors only with engine stopped and cool. Clean spilled fuel and oil from machine. DO NOT smoke. DO NOT run engine indoors.

## PREPARATION

4. Check the area to be mowed and remove all objects such as toys, wire, rocks, limbs and other objects that could cause injury if thrown by blade or interfere with mowing. Also note the location of holes, stumps, and other possible hazards.
5. Keep people and pets a safe distance from machine.
6. Check shields, deflectors, switches, blade controls and other safety devices frequently for proper operation and location.
7. Make sure all safety decals are clearly legible. Replace if damaged.
8. Protect yourself when mowing and wear safety glasses, long pants and substantial footwear. DO NOT mow barefooted or with sandals.
9. Know how to STOP blade and engine quickly in preparation for emergencies.
10. Use extra care when loading or unloading the machine into a trailer or truck.

## OPERATION

1. DO NOT put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of discharge area while engine is running.
2. STOP engine when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads, and under any conditions where thrown objects might be a hazard.
3. Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
4. DO NOT operate mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
5. After striking a foreign object or if mower vibrates abnormally, STOP the engine, disconnect and secure spark plug wire. Inspect the mower for any damage and repair the damage.
6. Watch for holes, ruts or bumps. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
7. DO NOT mow near drop offs, ditches or embankments. Operator could lose footing or balance.
8. DO NOT mow on wet grass Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk; never run. Slipping could cause injury.



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

## OPERATION

9. STOP blade and engine whenever you leave the operating position behind the handle for any reason, including clearing grass, emptying grass bag and making wheel height adjustments, repairs, or inspections.
10. Before cleaning, repairing or inspecting make certain blade and all moving parts have STOPPED. Disconnect and secure spark plug wire away from plug to prevent accidental starting.
11. STOP engine and wait until the blade comes to complete STOP before removing grass bag and/or clearing grass.

## MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

1. Never store machine or fuel container inside where fumes may reach an open flame, spark or pilot light such as in a water heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliance. Allow engine to cool before storing machine in an enclosure. Store fuel container out of reach of children in a well ventilated, unoccupied building.
2. Keep mower and engine free of grass, leaves or excess grease to reduce fire hazard and engine overheating.
3. When draining fuel tank, drain fuel into an approved container outdoors and away from open flame.

## MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

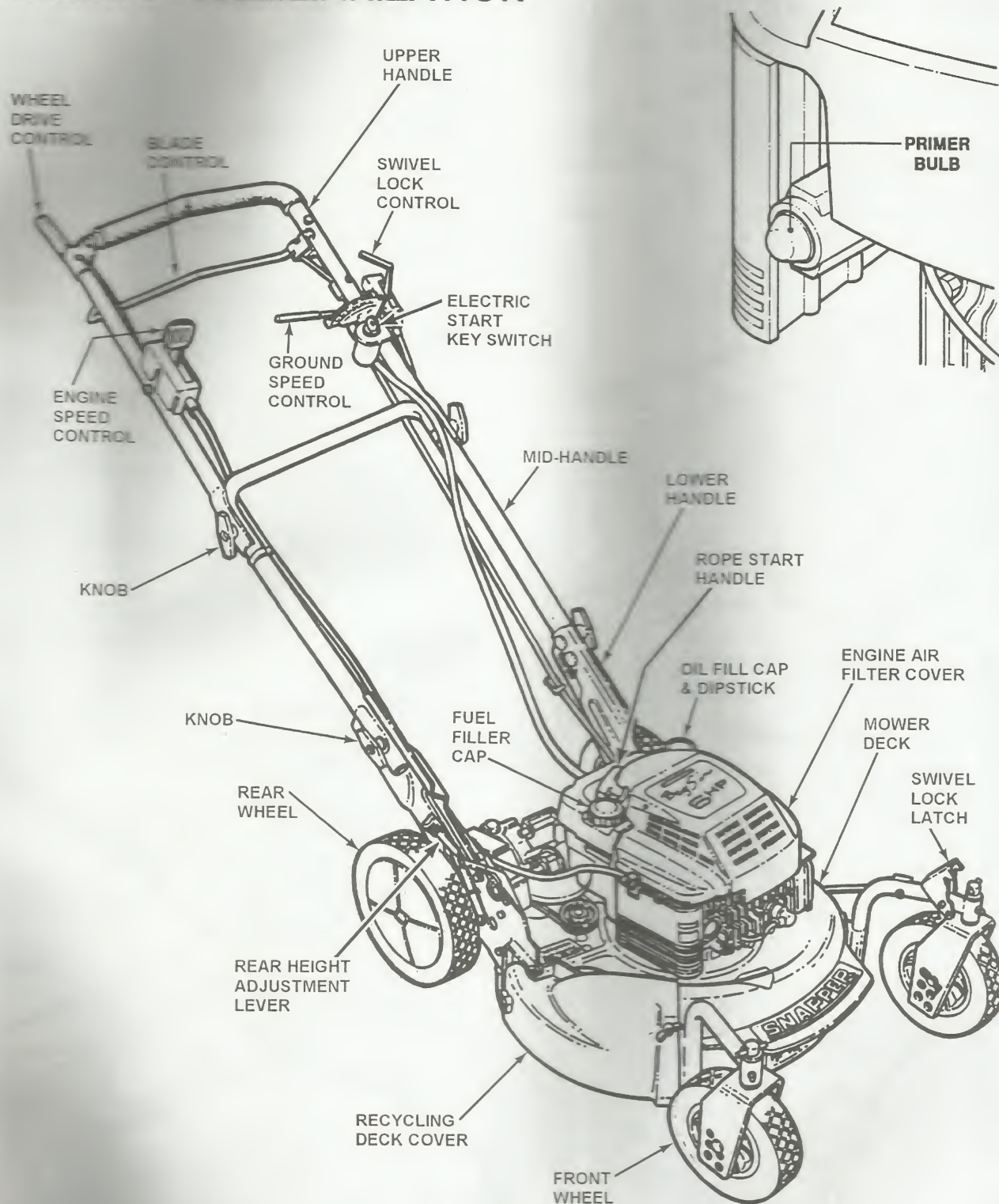
4. Keep all bolts, especially blade bolts, nuts and screws properly tight. Check that all cotter pins are in proper position.
5. Service engine and make adjustments only when engine is stopped. Removed spark plug wire from spark plug and secure wire away from spark plug to prevent accidental starting.
6. DO NOT change engine governor speed settings or overspeed engine.
7. Check grass bag assembly frequently for wear or deterioration to avoid thrown objects and exposure to moving parts. Replace with new bag if loose seams or tears are evident. Replace slider or bag adapter if broken or cracked.
8. Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blades or wear heavy leather gloves and use CAUTION when handling them.
9. NEVER test for spark by grounding spark plug next to spark plug hole; spark plug could ignite gas exiting engine.
10. Have machine serviced by an authorized SNAPPER dealer at least once a year and have the dealer install any new safety devices.
11. Use only genuine SNAPPER replacement parts to assure that original standards are maintained.

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# Section 1 - FAMILIARIZATION



## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This manual has been prepared for the operators of the SNAPPER WALK BEHIND MOWERS. Its purpose, aside from recommending operating and routine service requirements, is to promote safety through the use of accepted operating practices. Read, Understand and Follow the "IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS" on Pages 2 & 2A of this manual and all safety messages on the mower and attachments before operating the mower.

## 1.2 NOMENCLATURE

The nomenclature drawing above, Figure 1.1, shows the essential parts of the SNAPPER WALK BEHIND MOWERS. It is recommended that all operators of the mower become thoroughly familiar with the controls, parts and operation of the mower before operating. Specific details involving the engine are found in the separate engine owner's manual. Study these manuals before operating and keep both handy for future reference.



## Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### 2.1 PRE-START CHECK LIST

Make the following checks and perform the service required before each start-up.

2.1.1. Check guards, deflectors, grass bag, adapter and covers to make sure all are in place and securely tightened.

2.1.2. Check blade control and wheel drive control to insure they work freely. See Figure 2.1.

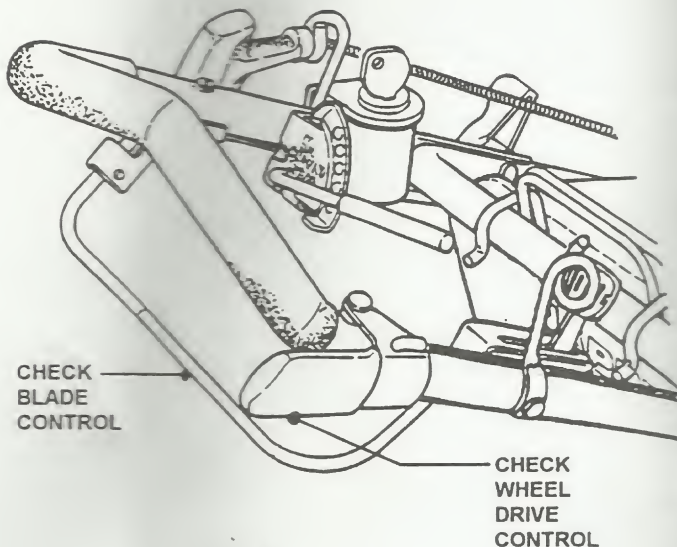


FIGURE 2.1

2.1.3. Check cutting height. Adjust to desired height.

2.1.4. Check engine oil and add oil as needed to bring level up to the full mark. Refer to Engine Owner's Manual for oil specifications. See Figure 2.2.

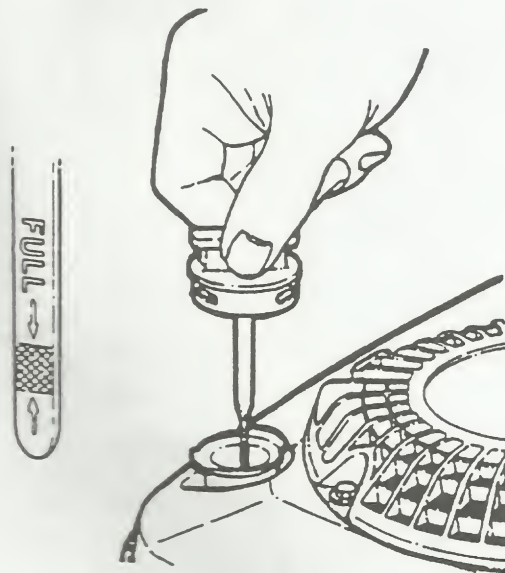


FIGURE 2.2

2.1.5. The battery should be removed from its carton and filled with electrolyte. See Section on Battery Service for battery preparation.

2.1.6. Add fuel to tank after pushing the mower outside where fumes can safely dissipate. Make sure cap is tightened after refueling. Refer to Engine Owners Manual for specifications.

2.1.7. Clean exterior surfaces of cutting deck and engine of any accumulation of spilled fuel, dirt, grass, oil, etc. Keep engine air intake screen and cooling fins clear at all times.

### 2.2 STARTING & OPERATION

#### 2.2.1. ENGINE & BLADE (Primer Models) (Electric Start)

1. Move engine speed control to the "Fast" (Rabbit) position. See Figure 2.3.

2. Push primer button three times to start a cold engine. **NOTE:** Do not use primer button to start warm engine.

**NOTE:** Stop the engine (and blade) by releasing the blade control.

2. Pull blade control against handle.

3. Turn key to the start position until engine starts. See Figure 2.3.

**NOTE:** If after 5 seconds of cranking the engine does not start, release the key and attempt starting again after waiting for approximately 20 seconds.

4. After engine starts, allow a brief warm-up until engine runs smooth.

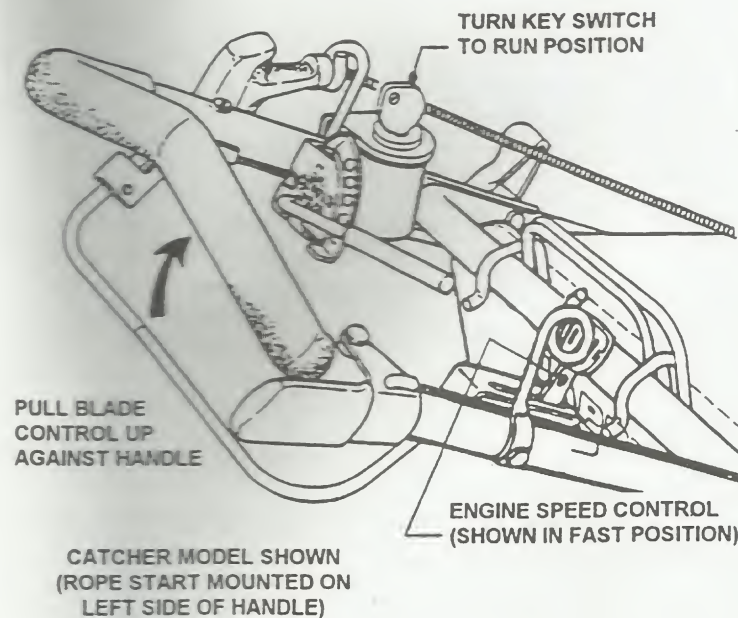


FIGURE 2.3



## Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### 2.2 STARTING & OPERATION (Continued)

#### 2.2.2. ENGINE & BLADE

##### (Primer Models) (Recoil Start)

If the battery is dead or too weak to crank engine use the recoil backup.

1. Move engine speed control to the "Fast" (Rabbit) position. See Figure 2.4.
2. Push primer button three times to start a cold engine. **NOTE:** Do not use primer button to start warm engine.

**NOTE:** Stop the engine (and blade) by releasing the blade control.

2. Pull blade control against handle.
3. Pull rope start handle until engine starts. See Figure 2.4.
4. After engine starts, allow a brief warm-up until engine runs smooth.

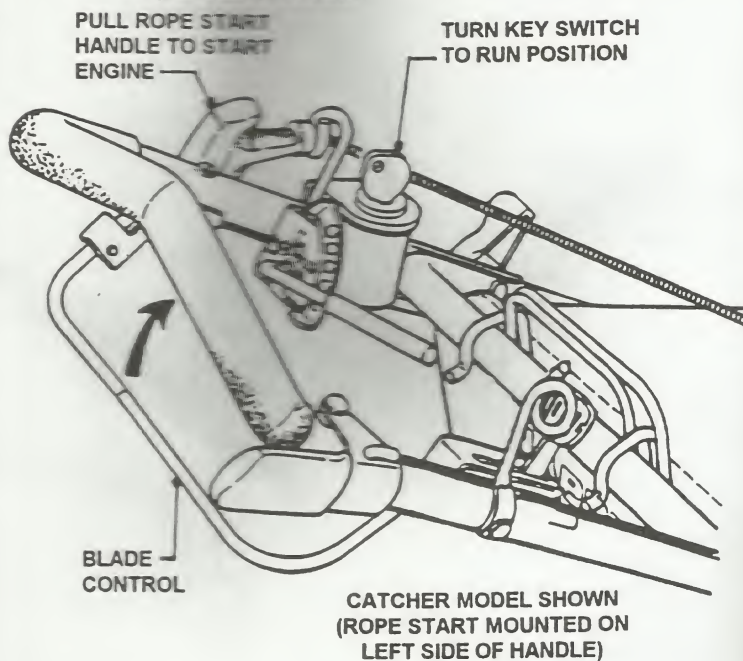


FIGURE 2.4

#### 2.2.3. PROPELLING MOWER (Self Propelled Models)

1. Move ground speed control to the desired speed position. See Figure 2.5.
2. Move wheel drive control against handle to engage wheel drive and propel mower forward. Forward speed can be adjusted while the mower is moving by changing position of the ground speed control. See Figure 2.5.

MOVE GROUND SPEED CONTROL TO DESIRED POSITION

CATCHER MODEL SHOWN (ROPE START MOUNTED ON LEFT SIDE OF HANDLE)

(FAST) SIX SPEED POSITION

(SLOW) ONE SPEED POSITION

BLADE CONTROL

WHEEL DRIVE CONTROL

FIGURE 2.5

MOVE CONTROL AGAINST HANDLE TO ENGAGE WHEEL DRIVE

### 2.3 STOPPING

1. Stop engine and blade by releasing the blade control. Stop forward motion of mower by releasing the wheel drive control.



## WARNING



Stop engine and mower blade before adjusting handle height.

### 2.4 HANDLE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

The height of the mower handle can be adjusted as follows:

1. Loosen the lower nuts on each lower handle as shown in Figure 2.6.

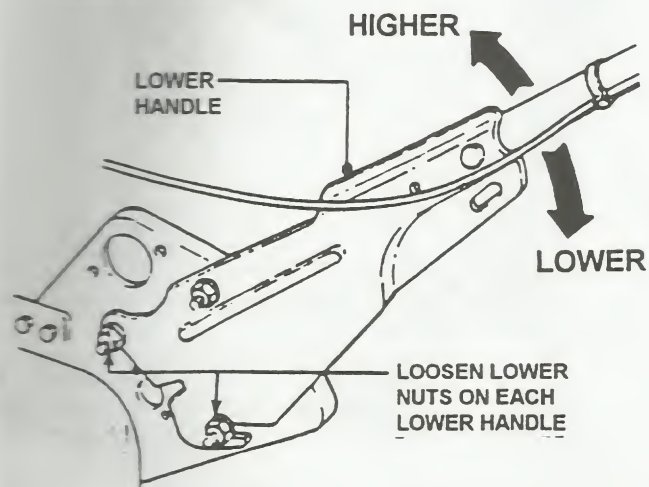


FIGURE 2.6

2. Move upper mower handle up or down until the desired position is achieved.
3. Tighten the lower nuts on each lower handle to maintain desired position.



## Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



### WARNING



Before attempting any adjustments to the cutting height, STOP the engine, remove the spark plug wire from the spark plug and secure wire away from plug. DO NOT make any adjustments with engine or blade running. Be extremely careful when performing adjustments around engine. Engine is extremely hot and can cause severe burns. Wear heavy leather gloves when handling or working around cutting blades. Blades are extremely sharp and can cause severe injury.

#### 2.5 CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT

1. Fixed Wheel Models: Pull the height adjusting latch outward and move to desired cutting height. See Figure 2.7.

2. Swivel Wheel Models: Remove hair pin and clevis pin install in highest hole for lowest cutting height and lowest hole for highest cutting height.

**IMPORTANT:** Move rear height adjustment latch for rear wheel adjustment to correspond with raising or lowering the front wheels to maintain the level of the deck.

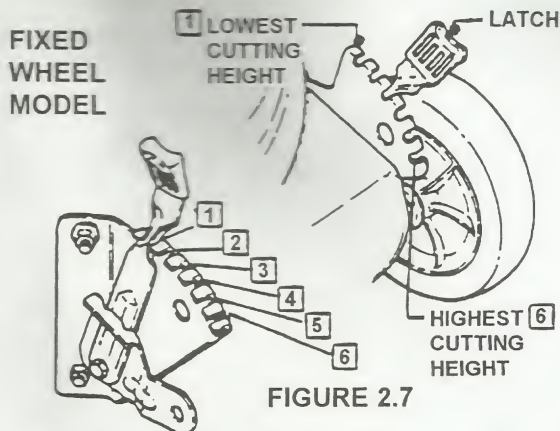
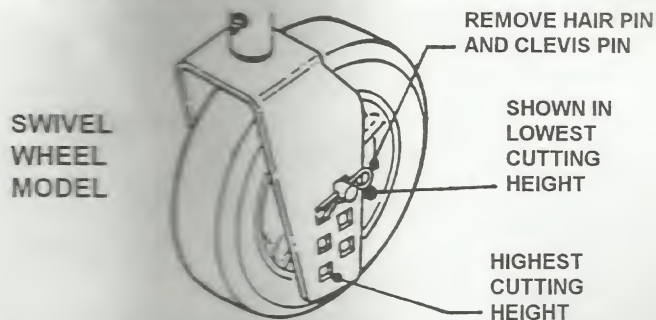


FIGURE 2.7

2. Set all wheels at the same cutting height. The highest cutting position is Notch 6. The lowest cutting position is Notch 1. See Figure 2.8.

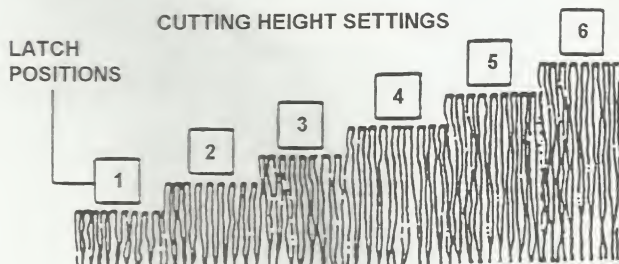


FIGURE 2.8

#### 2.6 SWIVEL WHEEL LOCK and UNLOCK (Swivel Wheel Models Only)

**IMPORTANT:** Engage the lock on the swivel wheel to maintain better control of machine when operating on slopes.

1. Stand in the operator's position. Push machine forward until swivel wheel is positioned in the forward direction. Wheel must be positioned in a forward direction to engage swivel wheel lock.
2. Push wheel lock lever forward to lock swivel wheel in place. Swivel wheel will stay in the forward direction position. See Figure 2.9.
3. Pull wheel lock lever rearward to unlock swivel wheel. In the unlocked position, the swivel wheel will rotate 360 degrees.

PUSH LOCK LEVER FORWARD TO LOCK POSITION

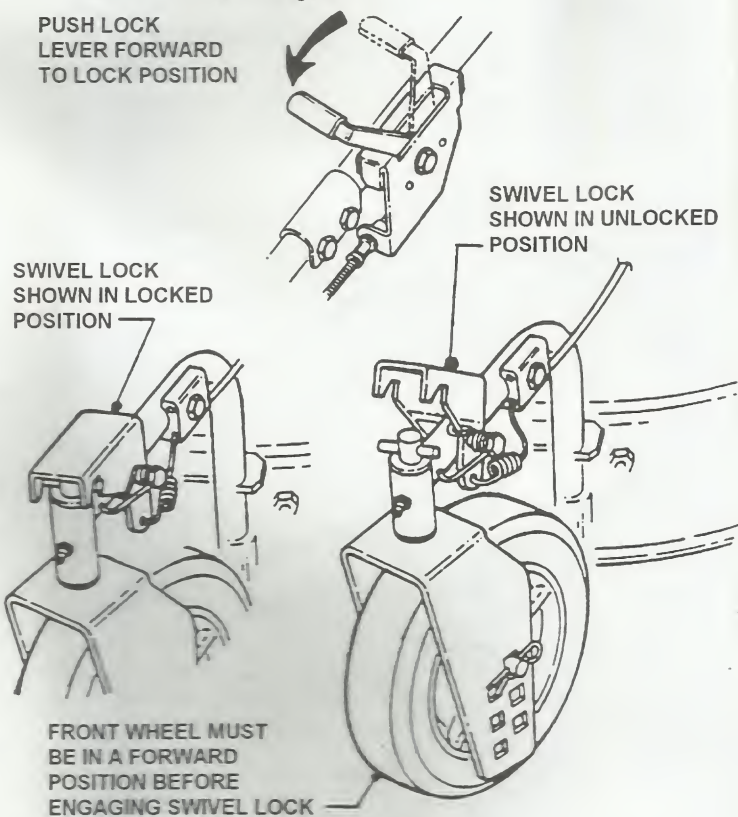


FIGURE 2.9

#### 2.7 RECYCLING OPERATION

**NOTE:** For best recycling results, cut up to a maximum of 1/3 of grass blade length and recycle ONLY when grass is dry.

1. Set all wheels in the highest cutting position (Notch 6).
2. Move engine speed control to "FAST" (Rabbit) position.
3. Move ground speed control to slowest speed setting.
4. Proceed mowing slowly. If grass is very dense, lower each rear wheel latch one notch lower than the front wheel latches to improve recycling performance.



## Section 2 - OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**WARNING**

Before attempting any adjustments to the cutting height, front baffle or installing or removing grass catcher, STOP the engine, remove the spark plug wire from the spark plug and secure wire away from plug. DO NOT make any adjustments with engine or blade running. Be extremely careful when performing adjustments around engine. Engine is extremely hot and can cause severe burns. Wear heavy leather gloves when handling or working around cutting blades. Blades are extremely sharp and can cause severe injury.

**2.8 INSTALLATION of (Optional) GRASS CATCHER**  
Install grass catcher by sliding connector over flange of adapter. See Figure 2.10. Attach grass bag hooks over middle handle cross bar. See Figure 2.11.

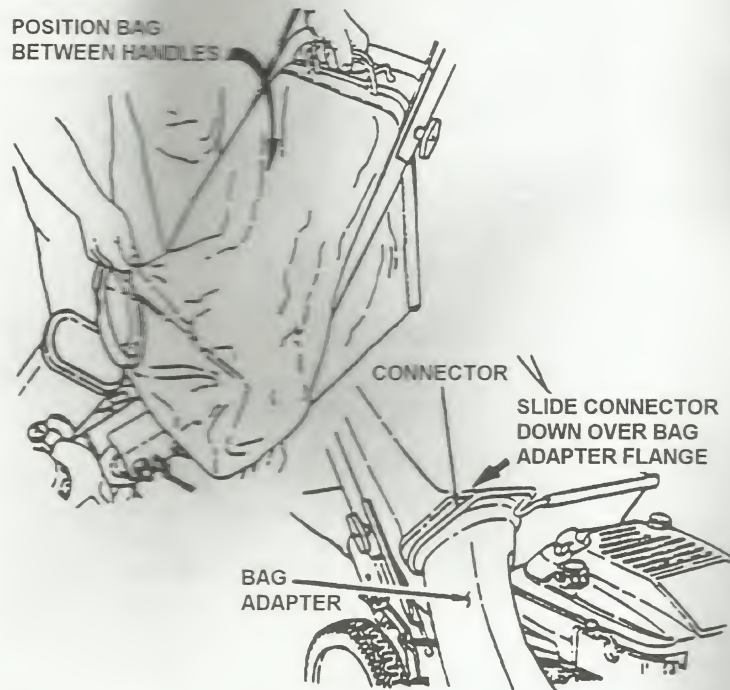


FIGURE 2.10

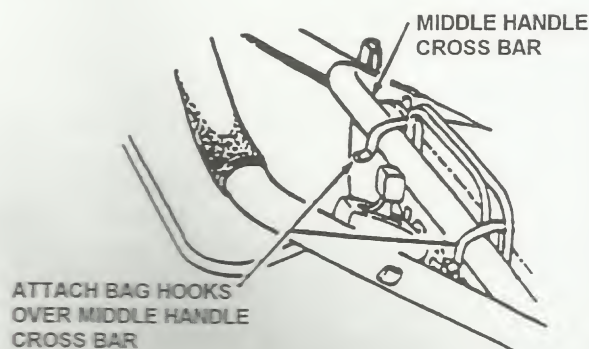


FIGURE 2.11

**WARNING**

Stop engine and mower blade before adjusting cutting height or adjusting front baffle.

**2.9 ADJUSTING FRONT DECK BAFFLE**  
(Models with an "F" prefix in model number)

The front of the cutting deck on these models has been cut out. This allows the blade to have more direct contact with the grass and allows more air flow into deck chamber. The adjustable baffle should be secured in the lowest position when using a grass bag. The baffle should be secured in the highest position when mulching grass. **NOTE:** Under certain conditions, when mulching, some grass may blow out from under front of baffle. This is normal but, the amount of grass blowing out can be reduced. Lower baffle down slightly until the smallest amount of grass blow out is present.

1. Stop engine.
2. Loosen wing nuts that secure front deck baffle. See Figure 2.12.
3. Lower the adjustable baffle to the lowest position when using a grass bag. Raise the baffle to its highest position when mulching grass. Take care to keep the baffle's lower edge parallel to the bottom of the deck. See Figure 2.12.
4. Retighten wing nuts securely.

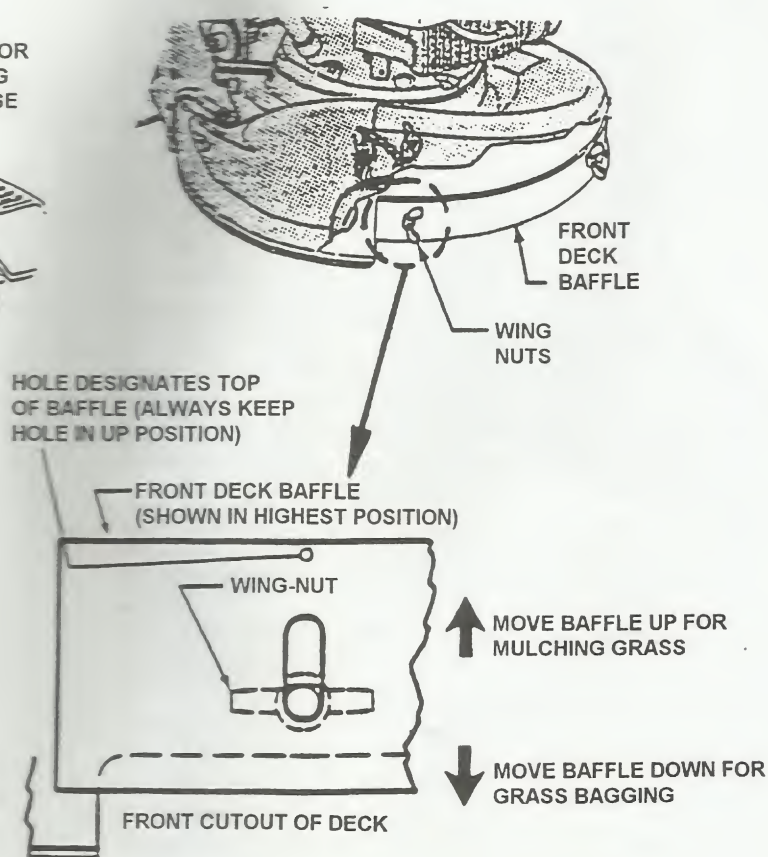


FIGURE 2.12